

Used Oil

Lubricating oils are used in presses, bindery equipment, building environment equipment (e.g., air conditioning units) and motor vehicles. From time to time, the equipment may require maintenance and oil changes. Oil leaks may occur or you may have a small oil spill that requires cleanup. Waste oil from these sources is regulated as used oil.

IDEM has requirements for used oil generators. You should do three things.



Manage the used oil properly at the site of generation.



Send the used oil offsite for appropriate recycling or energy recovery.



If disposed, determine if the used oil is hazardous.

Used oil that cannot be managed in this manner is regulated as hazardous waste, if it is a characteristic hazardous waste. See page 22. You must make a hazardous waste determination. If you determine that your used oil is not hazardous, it still cannot be sent to a solid waste landfill because most landfills do not accept liquid wastes or waste that contains free liquids.

What is Used Oil?

Used oil is an oil product that has been used for its intended purpose and will no longer be used.

During normal use, impurities such as dirt, metal scrap, water, or other chemicals can get mixed in with the oil. After continual use, additives in the oil can break down or the oil loses its viscosity and lubricating properties. The oil no longer performs well and is replaced with new oil to do the job.

Used oil is any oil refined from crude oil or synthetic oil that has been used and can no longer be used for its original purpose, (i.e., it is contaminated with physical or chemical impurities).

Recycling means reconditioned onsite for reuse, re-refined at a refinery into comparable product for reuse.

Energy Recovery means the burning of used oil to generate heat or power.

Fuel Blending means used oils from different generators are mixed by an authorized facility into a usable fuel for industrial boilers.

Oil-fired Space Heaters are small onsite heating units of less than 0.5 MMBtu/hour capacity. These units must be vented directly outside the building.

Ignitable Hazardous Waste means a hazardous waste with a flash point below 140°F.

Absorbent means a material or article designed to soak up free liquid, such as oil leaks, for the purpose of disposal. It can be in the form of a granular material, pillows, pads, etc.

Oily debris means any material contaminated with oil, including absorbent, disposable wipers, soil, personal protective equipment, etc.



Important Definitions

Sources of Used Oil

Used oil comes from a variety of sources in a print shop.

Here are some examples of used oil typically found in a print shop.

Press Oil	Transmission Fluid
Compressor Oil	Hydraulic Fluid
Engine Oil (vehicles /generators)	Machine Lubricating Oil

These used oils must be managed according to the requirements in this section. There may also be other sources of oil or oily wastes in your shop.

Oil wastes originating from virgin (unused) oil, oils used solely for their solvent properties, and animal and vegetable oils are not regulated as used oil. Oils that do not meet the definition of a used oil can still pose a threat to the environment if their disposal is mismanaged. IDEM strongly recommends that you collect and dispose of all used oils properly. Waste antifreeze, kerosene, and spent solvents contaminated with oil may be regulated as hazardous wastes because of ignitability or toxic metals. To minimize your liability, you should work with a licensed disposal facility to characterize the oily wastes to ensure proper disposal.

Used Oil

Generator Information

Company Magenta Printing
Address Indianapolis, IN

Source Used Press Oil
Date 4/21/01

Mixing Used Oil with Hazardous Waste

Do not mix used oil with hazardous waste – this makes the mixture a hazardous waste.

Used oil that is mixed with a IDEM-regulated listed or characteristic hazardous waste is subject to regulation under the hazardous waste rules. If you need additional guidance on this issue, contact your regional IDEM office. See page 113 for contact information.

What About Oily Wastewater?

Water contaminated with de minimis quantities of oil are excluded from the used oil rule when regulated by the Clean Water Act.

The definition of de minimis quantities of oil is “... small spills, leaks, or drippings from pumps, machinery, pipes and other similar equipment during normal operations...”. You may be allowed to

discharge water contaminated with de minimis quantities of oil from routine cleaning activities to the municipal sewer. Most municipalities require you to obtain approval to discharge wastewater to the sewer. You cannot discharge any quantity of oil into stormwater drains or to the groundwater. See page 52. Any water contaminated with visible oil must be handled as used oil.

How Do I Manage Used Oil in my Shop?

If you generate used oil, there are management standards that you must follow.

These management standards are common sense, good business practices that ensure the safe handling of used oil, promote recycling, and reduce the impact on the environment. These standards apply to all generators of used oil, regardless of quantity handled. You must follow these requirements to accumulate used oil.



Label containers, fill pipes and tanks “Used Oil”.



Keep containers and tanks in good condition and closed to prevent spills and leaks. Ensure that the container or tank materials are compatible with the used oil. Do not store used oil near floor or storm drains.

IDEM recommends that you do not accumulate used oil in large quantities because of possible spills and fire safety issues.

These standards relate to used oil leaks and spills.



Keep equipment, containers and tanks in good condition and be careful when transferring the oil. Have absorbent materials available.



If you discover a spill or leak, stop the oil leak. If necessary, transfer the oil to another compatible container or tank.



Contain the spilled oil with absorbent or booms (e.g. pillows and pigs). Surround floor drains, storm drains, or other conveyances with absorbent or booms to prevent migration of oil.



Clean up the oil and recycle the used oil as you would have before it was spilled. (If recycling is not possible, you then must determine if it is classified as a hazardous waste to ensure proper disposal.)



Remove, repair or replace the defective container or tank. You may also be required to notify the IDEM. See page 76 for more information on spill reporting.

How Do I Handle Oily Debris?

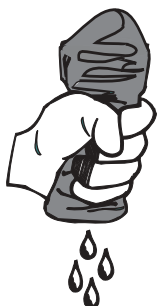
Oily debris are waste materials and soil contaminated with oil.

Absorbent booms or pigs are manufactured to absorb more than their weight in oil. That means free-flowing oil can be squeezed from them. As a rule of thumb, you should handle these spill control materials like used oil.

Any other waste materials with free-flowing oil must be handled and disposed of as used oil.



You can send oil-contaminated shop towels to a commercial laundry. The shop towels should be stored in closed containers. If free-flowing oil accumulates in the bottom of the container – collect in a separate container as used oil. Do not send it with the shop towels to the laundry. See page 27 for additional discussion on soiled shop towels.



Disposable wipers contaminated with oil are managed under the used oil rule. Make sure the disposable wipers are not contaminated with other wastes that are regulated as hazardous. If they are contaminated with hazardous wastes then they must be handled as such.

Also note that IDEM's air regulations prohibit air drying contaminated absorbents and debris prior to disposal.

How Do I Dispose of my Used Oil and Oily Debris?

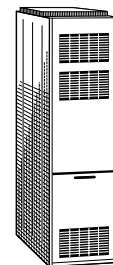
You may transport up to 55 gallons of used oil to an approved used oil collection center.

The container must be in good condition and not leaking. You must transport the used oil in a company vehicle. You should make sure your company has the appropriate liability and vehicle insurance. If you elect to ship used oil offsite, use a USDOT-registered transporter with an EPA ID number.

Can I Burn Used Oil in my Space Heater?

You are allowed to burn used oil in a space heater in your shop.

The space heater must have a heat input capacity of less than 500,000 Btu/hr and must be vented to the outside. Call OAQ or CTAP for additional information.



How Should I Manage Used Oil Filters?

There are management requirements for used oil filters.

Most print shops do not generate used oil filters. However, if you do generate used oil filters, for example from company vehicle repair activities, you must do the following.



Remove oil by puncturing the filter and anti-drain back valve.



Hot drain or gravity drain punctured filters for a minimum of 12 hours.

Put drained oil in a separate drum labeled “Used Oil”. *(Crushing the filter in a commercially-available filter crusher is the best way to remove residual oil from the filters.)*

We recommend that you keep drained filters in a separate container marked “Used Oil Filters”. (If possible, locate a scrap metal recycler who can recycle your filters. Otherwise these filters can be discarded as nonhazardous solid waste, if allowed by your landfill or solid waste hauler.)

Do not discard drained oil filters in your dumpster. Find a scrap metal recycler who can handle and properly recycle them.